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The point is that it is difficult to believe the administration did not opt for war long ago whatever the consequences. Although we could be left virtually alone to bear the costs of winning the war and securing the peace, the administration has appeared intent on moving forward, seemingly with contempt for international opinion.

Although it seems that we are beyond the 11th hour and the clock is ticking, there are things we can and must do before taking military action against Iraq. I think continued diplomatic pressure and the threat of military action can force Saddam Hussein to disarm or seek permanent exile abroad. We should continue to apply this pressure through the United Nations.

Further, I think we must be more open to the idea of so-called coercive inspections, using our military buildup in coordination with the U.N. to test the effectiveness of a more robust inspection and disarmament process in Iraq. This would involve putting the most qualified people in the field, providing them with real-time intelligence, destroying forbidden items as soon as they are detected, strictly prohibiting Iraqi flying in the designated no-fly zones and reinforcing the authority of inspectors with ground troops if necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I am an optimist by nature, but I am not naive. Coercive inspections alone may not be enough to disarm Saddam. But I believe they may be the best step now to build greater international support for forcing him to disarm. And as a strategic move in our larger role against terrorism, tightening the international noose on Saddam strikes me as a smarter option, at least in the short term, than opting now for a war with all its known and unknown consequences.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEAUPREZ). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DR. WILLIAM "BILL" PERRY, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to a fallen soldier in our country. I rise to pay tribute to one of Florida's unsung heroes, the late Dr. William B. Perry, Jr. who was truly one of the most outstanding civil rights leaders of our time. His passing on Wednesday, February 12, 2003, in Miami-Dade County leaves a deep void in our community as it re-

lates to being an outstanding protector of justice and protecting civil rights in our community for disenfranchised African Americans and people of color.

He was a grassroots person. He was beyond what you may call an elected official or someone that felt that they should do a good thing every once in a while. He was an individual that had many individuals come who celebrated his life on February 17, and it so happens to be Black History Month, of his contributions not only in south Florida but also in other parts of our Nation.

He was noted for being an educator, an educator of young and old, someone that continued to fight a good fight, day in and day out, on behalf of those that were disenfranchised. I think it is important that we remember his work as untraditional and uncommon, doing uncommon things uncommonly well in a way that everyday people could be able to grab on and hold on to his dream. He stood up in a time in the 1980s when there was a gentleman by the name of Arthur McDuffie that was killed by police officers in Miami-Dade County that then sparked off several days of rioting, and he was a part of bringing calmness to that situation and moving forth to help move Miami forward and what we have to do as it relates to fair play for all.

I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, for us to note that he attended college at Coppin State College and Loyola College for his undergraduate studies, and then went on to earn his doctorate degree in education from the University of Massachusetts. He served as an ordinary classroom teacher with the Baltimore City Public Schools. After that, he then went on and was awarded a national fellowship in the school superintendency by the Rockefeller Foundation in 1996, one of the Nation's most prestigious academic honors given to postdoctoral scholars.

I think it is also important for us to be able to note his contributions within the NAACP. He served as one of the Presidents of the Greater Miami-Dade NAACP where he was at the forefront and was ready to be able to move forth on behalf of those individuals that needed a voice in the community and in our Nation. Dr. Perry went on to educate many other leaders that are in our community today. He was a man who believed in family. He believed in commitment. He believed in the American way and making sure that everyone, and I do mean everyone, had an opportunity of the American dream. He left behind a family of great love and appreciation not only for public service but for education, making sure that they were the beacon for other families to follow. He left several grandchildren and children behind to carry on his legacy, and even those that are not in his bloodline, Mr. Speaker, that can continue his way of thinking, his uncanting will to represent those that needed the representation.

Words are truly inadequate, Mr. Speaker, to try to describe all the con-

tributions that Dr. Perry gave to our country and also to Miami-Dade County in Florida. But we must say that we only have a Dr. William Perry to come our way every once in a while. I must say that we need to continue to carry on, and America should move along in standing for those that need individuals to stand for them, and also make sure that we keep Dr. King's dream alive and Dr. Perry's dream alive in equality for everyone. Dr. Perry also was a drum major, to make sure to tell young and old never to give up on what they believe in and what they think is right.

Mr. Speaker, I would close by saying that it is important that we have fallen heroes, be it elected or selected or, we may say in the Christian community, anointed to lead, that we remember their contributions so that others can follow their track.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RUSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ETHERIDGE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE IRAQ CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Bush, from all appearances, seems poised to attack the country of Iraq sometime in the next 2 or 3 weeks according to news reports, according to reading a bit between the lines of statements coming from the Bush administration. The fundamental question about whether or not the United States should launch a preemptive strike without U.N. support against Iraq, the fundamental question is whether that attack against Iraq makes the United States a safer country and whether it makes American civilians traveling abroad, living abroad more importantly, perhaps, living in the United States, whether it makes all of us safer. The CIA says no.

A CIA analysis said that the chances of what they call a blowback, meaning attacks against civilians from terrorists abroad or terrorists inside the